

REMARKS

Claims 9 to 16 have been cancelled without prejudice in view of the restriction requirement. New claims 17 to 24 are similar to claims 1 to 8 and are limited to requiring the pulp consistency to change during the course of time. New claims 25 to 33 recite a method for feeding pulp:

"either to an upper part of the tank or to a lower part of the tank depending on a consistency of the pulp being fed from said process apparatus such that the pulp at the dilute consistency it is fed to the upper part of the tank and pulp at the condensed consistency it is fed to the lower part of the tank".

The indication of allowability of independent claim 1 is appreciated. The suggested amendments to claim 1 have been made herein, with the exception of the term "wherein the consistency changes during the discharge" and the word "discharged" at line 6 was substituted for "fed" (rather than the other way around as indicated in the Action). It is believed that the intent of the Action stating that "discharged" is to be substituted for "fed" because "fed" was in line 6 of claim 1 and that such a substitution is consistent with the suggested substitution at line 7.

Requiring the consistency of the pulp to change "during discharge", as suggested in the Action, does not address the situation wherein the pulp consistency changes from one discharge event to another. While the consistency does change during discharge, it is also the case that the consistency changes between discharges. To address the changing

consistency of the pulp, independent claim 1 has been amended to require the pulp to have a varying consistency.

The rejection of original claims 1 to 8 as being obvious over the admitted prior art shown in figures 2a and 2b is traversed and has been overcome in view of the amendments to claim 1. The admitted prior art does not disclose or suggest several features of the claimed method including the feeding of pulp to either an upper or lower part of a tank depending on the consistency of the pulp being fed to the tank. The claimed method is patentable for at least the reason that it feeds pulp to the upper or lower part of a tank based on the consistency of the pulp. In particular, independent claim 1 requires the pulp to be "of varying consistency" and that "depending on the consistency" the pulp is fed to an upper or lower part of the tank; independent claim 17 requires the pulp consistency to change with time and that "depending on the consistency" the pulp is fed to an upper or lower part of the tank, and independent claim 25 requires that "pulp being fed at various times during the method has a dilute consistency and a condensed consistency" and that dilute pulp is fed to an upper part of a tank and condensed consistency pulp is fed to a lower part of the tank. Because the admitted prior art does not teach selectively feed pulp to an upper or lower part of a tank based on the consistency of the pulp, there claimed inventions are patentable over the prior art.

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All claims are in good condition for allowance. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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